

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 00453 191241Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 /085 W  
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R 191124Z JAN 77  
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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0453

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SA, YS  
SUBJECT: SAUDI RELATIONS WITH SOUTH YEMEN

REF: (A) SANA 121 (B) 76 JIDDA A-128

SUMMARY: THE NEW SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO THE PDRY SHOULD BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF JANUARY. A PDRY AMBASSADOR WILL COME TO JIDDA SOON AFTER. THE PDRY HAS GIVEN THE SAG A LONG LIST OF PROJECTS FOR FINANCING. THE SAG WILL PROBABLY ACT SOON ON FINANCING A NEW POWER STATION FOR ADEN BUT OTHER ASSISTANCE (OTHER THAN SMALL CASH GRANTS) WILL AWAIT CLEAR INDICATION THAT THE PDRY IS MODERATING ITS POLICIES. AS INITIAL SIGNS THE SAG WILL BE WATCHING HOW THE PDRY TREATS THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR AND WHETHER IT LIVES UP TO ITS PROMISE TO PERMIT SOME PROMINENT EXILES TO RETURN. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00453 191241Z

1. ON JANUARY 19 WE MET WITH THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF ARABIAN PENINSULA AFFAIRS, ISMAIL AL SHURA, FOR A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF SAG RELATIONS WITH ITS PENINSULA NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY THE PDRY.

2. AL SHURA SAID THAT THE NEW SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO THE PDRY, MOHAMED ABD AL QADIR 'ALAQI, WOULD BE LEAVING TO TAKE UP

HIS POST TOWARDS THE END OF THE NEXT WEEK. CROWN PRINCE FAHD HAD PERSONALLY ORDERED THAT HE GET TO ADEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANY DELAY NOW WILL BE LARGELY THE BUREAUCRATIC ONE OF GETTING HIS CREDENTIALS PREPARED AND SIGNED BY THE KING. AMBASSADOR 'ALAQI WILL INITIALLY GO TO ADEN ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS. TWO ADDITIONAL DIPLOMATS WILL EVENTUALLY BE ASSIGNED WITH HIM BUT NONE HAS YET BEEN DESIGNATED.

3. THE PDRY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HAS BEEN IN JIDDA FOR THE LAST TWO MONTHS TRYING TO WORK OUT DETAILS OF HOUSING ETC. FOR THE PDRY MISSION HERE. THERE IS NOW AGREEMENT ON MOST ISSUES AND A RESIDENT PDRY AMBASSADOR SHOULD BE COMING FAIRLY SOON.

4. WE ENQUIRED WHETHER THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR IN ADEN WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME ONEROUS CONDITIONS IMPOSED UPON OTHER RESIDENT DIPLOMATS. AL SHURA SAID THAT FONMIN PRINCE SAUD HAD RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH PDRY FONMIN MUTI. THE ANSWER APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT EQUIVOCAL; THE SAUDIS EXPECT THAT THEIR AMBASSADOR WILL GET SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BECAUSE THEY WILL MAKE THEIR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS (INCLUDING AID) DEPENDENT ON IT, BUT THEY DID NOT GET A FORMAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS SPECIAL POSITION.

5. THE PDRY HAS PRESENTED THE SAG WITH AN EXTENSIVE LIST OF PROJECTS IT WISHED THE SAG TO FUND. THIS INCLUDED: A NEW POWER PLANT FOR ADEN; FIVE THOUSAND "FLATS" OR DWELLING UNITS; 1000 MILES OF HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION; AND IMPROVEMENTS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JIDDA 00453 191241Z

AND MODERNIZATION OF THE PORT OF ADEN. THE SAG HAS MORE OR LESS AGREED TO UNDERWRITE A 50 MEGAWATT POWER PLANT FOR ADEN. FINANCING WILL BE HANDLED THROUGH THE SAUDI DEVELOPMENT FUND RATHER THAN AS A DIRECT GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT GRANT. FURTHER ASSISTANCE (ASIDE FROM AN OCCASIONAL LIMITED INFUSION OF CASH TO KEEP THE PDRY TOLERABLY SOLVENT) WILL AWAIT THE PDRY'S DEMONSTRATING THAT IT IS INDEED PREPARED TO CHANGE ITS BEHAVIOR. ONE SUCH TEST WILL BE THE PDRY'S WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW SOME PROMINENT EXILES TO RETURN. THE PDRY HAD AGREED TO THIS IN PRINCIPLE AT THE TIME OF THE DECISION TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS, BUT THE SAUDI SIDE DID NOT PRESENT ANY NAMES AT THAT TIME SO IT IS YET TO BE DEMONSTRATED HOW THE PDRY WILL BEHAVE IN PRACTICE.

6. AL SHURA CONFIRMED THAT THE SAG CONTINUED TO PUT A "HOLD" OF SORTS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE PDRY BY OTHER GULF STATES WHICH DO NOT NOW HAVE RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THEY WERE IN CONTACT WITH BOTH THE UAE AND QATAR ON THE SUBJECT. THE SAG IS IN NO HURRY TO ENCOURAGE

THE EXPANSION OF THE PDRY'S RELATIONS IN THE ARE.

7. AL SHURA CLEARLY THINKS THE SAG POLICY OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE PDRY IS WORTH A TRY THOUGH HE HAS NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE LIKELIHOOD OF EARLY AND DRAMATIC CHANGE. HE PROBABLY REFLECTED THE GENERAL SAG VIEW IN HIS COMMENT THAT A POVERTY-STRICKEN AND ISOLATED REGIME HAS NOTHING TO LOSE BY IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR BUT WHEN THE BENEFITS OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA (WITH THE OBLIGATIONS THAT WILL ENTAIL) BECOME EVIDENT, THE PDRY WILL THINK TWICE BEFORE SACRIFICING ITS ADVANTAGES.

8. BIOGRAPHIC REPORT ON THE NEW SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO THE PDRY WAS CONTAINED IN REF B.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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